

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 189

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor Ernie Lanier.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to a gentleman who has excelled in multiple endeavors, demonstrating to all of us that variety is truly the spice of life; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Lanier has been a Marine, professional wrestler, animal trainer, television personality, and author during his long and varied career; and

WHEREAS, the son of Jesse Carl and Mildred Lanier, Ernie Lanier is a graduate of Wallace-Rose Hill High School in Teachey, North Carolina, and Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lanier proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1959 to 1968, persevering through treacherous duty in Southeast Asia; he qualified as an expert rifleman and was a Corps champion in weightlifting and judo; and

WHEREAS, before receiving his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps in April 1968, he attained the rank of sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lanier then shifted gears to work as a professional wrestler for more than twenty years in Canada and the United States with several organizations, including the NWA, USWA, and WWF, appearing as Lumberjack Lanier, The Executioner, and the Pit Viper; and

WHEREAS, he next worked as a professional snake handler and wildlife trainer; he gained proficiency in handling large snakes and exotic cats and had near-death experiences while working with these animals; and

WHEREAS, in this capacity, Mr. Lanier appeared on David Letterman, Maury Povich, *Good Morning America*, *Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures*, and *Jack Hanna's Into the Wild*; and

WHEREAS, he has also appeared in many country music videos with stars such as Marty Stuart, Randy Travis, Eddie Rabbitt, and the Statler Brothers, as well as the movies *Ernest Goes to Jail* and *Emergency 911*; and

WHEREAS, a member of Barton Creek Baptist Church in Lebanon, Mr. Lanier is writing a book on his near-death experiences with animals called *My Redemption*; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of thirty years, Ann; his children, Ernie, Jr., Jeffrey Todd, Michael Shane, and Lori Ann Lanier; and his stepchildren, Tina Griffin Beal and Harold Griffin; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Lanier has mastered three very different professions, and he should be recognized for his expertise and individuality; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Ernie Lanier upon his lifetime of accomplishment, acumen, and integrity and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.